IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-26 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please add Claims 27-44, as follows:

27. (NEW) A printing control apparatus for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising:

selection means for selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limitation means for limiting, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected by said selection means, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions.

28. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising first setting means for setting a size of a printing paper,

wherein said limitation means limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the printing paper set by said first setting means and the feed tray selected by said selection means.

29. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising second setting means for setting a binding location,

wherein said limitation means limits the staplable position on the basis of the feed tray selected by said selection means, the size of the printing paper set by said first setting means and the binding location set by said second setting means.

30. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising display means for displaying of a staplable position and an unstaplable position in an identifiable screen.

31. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

control means for specifying the staplable position limited by said limitation means and inhibiting a user from selecting an unstaplable position; and

instruction means for instructing display of staple position setting screen where control result by said control means was reflected.

32. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said printing control apparatus is prepared for in a host computer which communicates with a printer by an interactive interface, further comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring paper information, which includes setting direction and size of the printing paper for each paper feed tray prepared for in said printer, from said printer by said interactive interface according to the designation of a user,

wherein said limitation means associates paper information acquired by said acquisition means with the paper information of the paper feed tray selected by the said selection means according to the instruction of the user from among the list of a plurality of paper feed

trays displayed in the display unit and limits the staplable position on the basis of the associated paper information.

33. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising display control means for displaying the paper information of a plurality of paper feed trays acquired by said acquisition means,

wherein each paper information includes setting direction and size of the paper.

34. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

device list generation means for generating device list information; and

device selection means for selecting the device corresponding to instruction of the user from among lists based on the generated device list information,

wherein said acquisition means is for acquiring paper information for each paper feed tray of the device selected by said selection means.

35. (NEW) A printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality of staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising the steps of:

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limiting, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions.

36. (NEW) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a step of setting a size of a printing paper, wherein

said limiting step limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the printing paper and the selected feed tray.

37. (NEW) The method according to claim 36, further comprising a step of setting a binding location,

wherein said limiting step limits the staplable position on the basis of the selected feed tray, the size of the printing paper and the binding location.

38. (NEW) The method according to claim 35, further comprising a step of displaying of a staplable position and an unstaplable position in an identifiable screen.

39. (NEW) The method according to claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

specifying the staplable position limited in said limiting step and inhibiting a user from selecting an unstaplable position; and

instructing a display of staple position setting screen where control result was reflected.

40. (NEW) The method according to claim 35, wherein said printing control method is prepared for in a host computer which communicates with a printer by an interactive interface, further comprising the steps of:

acquiring paper information, which includes setting direction and size of the printing paper for each paper feed tray prepared for in said printer, from said printer by the interactive interface according to the designation of a user,

wherein the limiting step associates paper information acquired by said acquiring step with the paper information of the paper feed tray selected in the selecting step according to the instruction of the user from among the list of a plurality of paper feed trays displayed in the display unit and limits the staplable position on the basis of the associated paper information.

41. (NEW) The method according to claim 40, further comprising a display control step for displaying the paper information of a plurality of paper feed trays acquired in said acquiring step,

wherein each paper information includes setting direction and size of the paper.

42. (NEW) The method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

generating device list information; and

selecting the device corresponding to instruction of the user from among lists based on the generated device list information, wherein

said acquiring step acquires paper information for each paper feed tray of the selected device.

43. (NEW) A computer executable program for executing a printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, the program comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limiting, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position among the plurality of staplable positions.

(concluded)

44. (NEW) A recording medium on which is stored machine readable program code for executing a printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, said program code comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; and

limiting, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions.--.